



Crescent Hill Area off Frankfort Avenue

The situation was equally serious in Brandenburg, which counts on Louisville Gas & Electric Company for its natural gas supply. At 4 p.m., the chart which records natural gas pressure at Brandenburg instantly dropped from 100 PSIG (pounds per square inch gauge) to 76 PSIG as gas escaped from broken lines in the damaged area of the community. Pressure normally doesn't fluctuate more than five or six pounds in the course of an hour.

The discovery of these dangers prompted these priorities:

Priority number one for the gas department:

Eliminate the threat of explosion and fire by shutting off natural gas where necessary;

Priority number one for the electric departments:

Get the Louisville Water Company back in service as quickly as possible;

Priority number two for the electric departments:

Check out the undamaged portions of Louisville's electric transmission system for alternate routes to restore service promptly to as many customers as possible. First targets for service restoration included three hospitals that had been forced to switch to their standby power sources.

The job at hand was becoming fairly well defined. Mobilizing the men, equipment and supplies needed to get it done was the first step.

*"We did feel that we needed to express our thanks in some way for the heroic effort made by all those utility employees, working around the clock, to bring things back to normal . . ."**

Dave Fischer was working that Wednesday when the storm hit, but not at his job as L G & E Superintendent of Electrical Distribution. He was enjoying a stay-at-home vacation, puttering in the garage at his home south of Okolona, when it began to rain.

His neighborhood escaped the brunt of the storm, so it was 6:30 before he was aware of its destruction elsewhere. He didn't bother to call in. He simply got in his car and drove to the office at 7th and Ormsby where he had spent much of his 20 years with the company. The vacation was over. He next got home at 11 p.m. Thursday, and that was just the beginning.

But even the crisis of the next several days failed to stop the good-natured ribbing common among L G & E employees at all levels.

"Dave, I hate to think of you losing your vacation over this tornado," Operations Vice President Bob Royer smiled. "So just consider yourself still on vacation."

*"Please pass the word along to all the great guys who worked so long and hard to help everyone get back to normal. The ones we ran into in our neighborhood were so kind. I don't see how they did so much in such a short time. We had only minor inconveniences compared to many people . . ."**

L G & E's storm board, which receives and records